Amendment in Environmental laws

* 97. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the environmental degradation has already reached frightening proportions in India because its environment laws could only be described as antiquated and unimplementable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the laws are falling short of serving the purpose of polluted rivers, contaminated underground water, fast depleting water table and endangered ozone layer while active participation and cooperation of individuals, community organisations, voluntary groups and industry are needed;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the laws; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Keeping in view the growth in industrial transportation and other economic activities and services, the Government has initiated a process of assessing various aspects related to enhancing the efficacy of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Fertilisers Dealerships for SCs/STs

* 98. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various fertiliser companies falling within the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers appoint/engage, persons/firms as dealers for transportation, carrying/forward and sale of various fertiliser products;

(b) if so, the provisions, if any, made for reserving a quota in such dealerships/agencies for SCs/STs, proportionate to their population, and the number of such dealerships awarded to persons belonging to SCs/STs during the last five years, as compared to the total dealership and their percentage; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?